

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 155420

46

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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DRAFTED BY EB/AN:WBCOBB:TH

APPROVED BY EB/AN:MHSTYLES

CAB - MR. HORNEMAN

EB/TT - MR. MEADOWS

EA/TB - MR. KLEMSTINE

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R 181402Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155420

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, TH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - US/THAI BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: BANGKOK 11099

1. DEPT HAS TAKEN CAREFUL NOTE EMBASSY VIEWS ON OUTCOME OF RECENT US/THAI NEGOTIATIONS. WE WISH IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE TO NARROW SIGNIFICANTLY THE ISSUES WHICH SEPARATE US, BUT WE ARE NOT SANGUINE WE WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO GIVEN THE CONSTRAINTS WHICH THE THAIS SEEK TO IMPOSE.

2. REGARDING INSTRUCTIONS TO DELEGATION IT IS NOT DEPTS INTENTION TO EXCLUDE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS FROM ANY ULTIMATE DECISION, BUT IN SO FAR AS POSSIBLE WE MUST ENDEAVOR TO BASE ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS ON ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES AND FACTORS, AND INSTRUCTIONS REFLECT THIS POLICY. CAB IS BY STATUTE CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR AVIATION ECONOMICS AND ITS RECOMMENDATION MUST BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION. THEY MAY BE OVERRIDEN ON THE BASIS OF NATIONAL INTEREST FACTORS OR FOREIGN POLICY
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PAGE 02 STATE 155420

CONSIDERATIONS BUT SUCH ACTION IS NOT TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE

OF COMPELLING CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.

3. WE SHOULD NOTE THAT NEGOTIATIONS OVER AVIATION ISSUES ARE FREQUENTLY INCUMBERED BY OVERT OR IMPLIED THREATS OF POSSIBLE RETALIATORY ACTION BY EITHER OR BOTH SIDES.

WHILE WE WOULD DO ALL THAT WE COULD TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF RETALIATORY ACTION ON THE ECONOMIC INTEREST OF OUR CARRIERS, WE HAVE HAD TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH THREATS, AND TO ENDEAVOR TO EVALUATE THEM ON THE BASIS OF ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US. EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT INPUT IN THIS EVALUATION PROCESS AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONTINUED ASSESSMENTS.

4. WE ARE OF COURSE AWARE THAT AVIATION DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ARE LARGELY BASED ON OPTICS AND POSSIBILITY OF EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION BY THE THAIS OF THE EXTENSIVE ROUTES THEY ALREADY HAVE IS REMOTE, AT LEAST FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. OUR PROBLEM IS MORE RELATED TO THE PRECEDENTAL ASPECTS OF FURTHER GRANTS TO THAILAND WHEN THERE IS LITTLE THEORETICAL JUSTIFICATION. OUR AIM IS TO FIND SOME COMMON GROUND WITH THE THAIS BETWEEN THEIR OPTICAL HANG UPS ON THE ONE HAND AND US AIRLINE INTERESTS IN THAILAND PLUS

US PRECEDENTAL DIFFICULTIES ON THE OTHER. KISSINGER

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